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Letter dated 30 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am enclosing a copy of the statement of Jamaica prepared for the wrap-up session on the programme of the Security Council for the month of November 2001 (see annex).

I would be grateful if the present statement could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) M. Patricia **Durrant**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 30 November 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of Jamaica prepared for the wrap-up session on the programme of the Security Council for the month of November 2001

There were a number of extremely important issues before the Security Council during November 2001, which provided us with an opportunity to make considerable progress in a number of areas. Practically all regions experiencing conflict situations received the Council's attention. Conflicts in Africa, in particular Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, but also in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Angola, as well as the conflict between Ethiopia and Eritrea, received special attention from the Council. The situations in Afghanistan and in Kosovo were also given the full attention of the Council. The issue of terrorism and matters related to the humanitarian impact of conflicts were important issues on which the Council took action.

We highlight below some of the actions taken and the results achieved:

1. The Council held two important meetings on issues that have a direct bearing on the humanitarian aspects of conflicts:

(a) Children and armed conflicts;

(b) The protection of civilians in armed conflicts.

Through discussions of these issues, the Council continued the process of seeking ways to protect the most vulnerable and most seriously affected members of the civilian populations ravaged by the vicissitudes of armed conflict. The meetings brought into focus efforts being undertaken by the United Nations and its agencies to relieve the suffering of those affected and to seek ways to prevent further violations of humanitarian laws. Security Council resolution 1379 (2001) on children and armed conflicts, adopted by the Council on 20 November 2001, set out a series of actions to be undertaken by the international community and provided support to the Secretary-General for the programmes being undertaken by his Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict and by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

2. The high-level meetings with the Ministers of the region and affected countries on the situation in Burundi and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Lusaka Political Committee) provided an opportunity for the Council to interact with the major actors in these regions and to share with them the Council's objectives as well as to clearly define the Council's role in furthering the peace processes. The Prime Minister of Jamaica chaired the public meeting on the Democratic Republic of the Congo as a further demonstration of the importance Jamaica places on moving the peace process forward. These meetings also provided the Council with an opportunity to hear the views of the parties and their vision of the peace processes and the region. These meetings and the actions taken by the Council (see the presidential statement on Burundi, S/PRST/2001/33, and resolution 1376 (2001) on the Democratic Republic of the Congo) provided further impetus for the advancement of the peace processes in the affected countries and in the region as a whole.

3. The Security Council's meeting with former President Nelson Mandela provided the Council with an opportunity to receive a briefing on the peace process directly from him, as facilitator, and afforded the Council an opportunity to thank Madiba Nelson Mandela for his tireless efforts in bringing peace to Burundi. As Madiba indicated, this may have been the last opportunity for the Council to be briefed by him as he was retiring as facilitator. The sentiments of the Council were expressed in its statement issued by the President (S/PRST/2001/35), the Foreign Minister of Jamaica.

4. The Security Council held very frank discussions with the Foreign Ministers of Ethiopia and Eritrea in an effort to remove obstacles to the effective operation of the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) and to urge the parties to proceed to implementation of confidence-building measures that will advance peace between them.

5. The Security Council's public debate on the situation in Angola drew international attention to some of the remaining obstacles to peace and the efforts needed to advance the peace process in that country. It afforded the Council the opportunity to exchange views directly with the Government of Angola on possible ways to advance peace in that country, and urged the international community to give further support to efforts aimed at alleviating the humanitarian suffering of the people of Angola. The Council issued a presidential statement (S/PRST/2001/36) setting out its views on the issues.

6. The Security Council undertook a review of the effectiveness of its sanctions policy on Liberia, and examined the prevailing humanitarian situation in that country to ensure that the sanctions did not create further suffering on the people of Liberia. The situation in Liberia also was reviewed in the context of its regional implications.

7. The Security Council continued its support of the peace process in Sierra Leone through the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), while urging that special attention be paid to the need for appropriate funding of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme. In our meeting with the Chief of the Office of Legal Affairs, members of the Council encouraged the Secretary-General to explore all possible ways to establish the special court for Sierra Leone without further delay. The Council's attention was drawn to the fact that the delays were due primarily to the lack of appropriate funding for the Court. We were pleased to learn that the Office of Legal Affairs will lead a planning mission to Sierra Leone in early 2002.

8. The Security Council kept the situation in Afghanistan under constant review during the month, with particular attention on the humanitarian situation and the possible long-term engagement of the United Nations in the resolution of the conflict and in post-conflict peace-building and reconstruction. During the course of a number of consultations of the whole, the Council examined various aspects of the issues related to Afghanistan. At its public meeting, which was chaired by the Foreign Minister of Jamaica, the Council adopted resolution 1378 (2001), approving a clear mandate for the Secretary-General to undertake initiatives for advancing the peace process and to deal with the humanitarian situation, and endorsed the efforts of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in this regard.

9. The Security Council, in dealing with the problems surrounding the oil-for-food programme for Iraq, reached consensus on a draft resolution sponsored by the five permanent members of the Security Council allowing for a six-month extension of the programme and for the later adoption of the "goods review list" and further modification of the sanctions regime. The adoption of resolution 1382 (2001) can be seen as progress on the difficult problems facing the Council in dealing with its relationship with Iraq.

10. The Security Council, through a series of actions, including a meeting at the Ministerial level and the issuing of a declaration contained in resolution 1377 (2001), continued to exercise its leadership in support of the counter-terrorism activities of the United Nations. This meeting, chaired by the Foreign Minister of Jamaica, confirmed the Council's resolve on this issue. During the month of November, the Counter-Terrorism Committee continued to establish procedures for implementation of resolution 1373 (2001) and to engage Member States in seeking their cooperation.

11. The Council received useful briefings from the Presidents and the Prosecutor of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda. The briefings provided an opportunity for Council members to seek clarification on a number of issues related to the work of the Tribunals and to express their concerns on a number of related issues. The information provided in the reports and the briefings should allow for further examination by the Council of the functioning of the Tribunals, including action on the request by the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the Council's approval of ad litem judges.

12. In keeping with the recommendations of the Brahimi panel to improve the effectiveness of United Nations peacekeeping operations, the Security Council working group on peacekeeping operations continued in its efforts to promote an improved triangular relationship between the Security Council, the troop-contributing countries and the Secretariat. The working group continued to seek ways to build on the gains achieved through resolutions 1327 (2000) and 1353 (2001), giving full recognition of the role of troop-contributing countries to the effective implementation of peacekeeping mandates.

13. The Council had an opportunity, at the expert level, to examine ways to improve its annual report to the General Assembly in a meeting of the working group on documentation and procedures convened for that purpose.

14. Our delegation notes that while the peace processes in Western Sahara and in the Middle East made very little progress during the month there are opportunities for peace being pursued in these areas:

(a) In the case of Western Sahara, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) for a period of three months. We urge the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General to use this period to engage the parties fully in seeking a solution to this issue;

(b) The Council, without any progress reported on the issues related to Israel's occupation of Syria's Golan Heights, adopted resolution 1380 (2001) extending the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF);

(c) As to the Middle East, including the question of Palestine, we note the efforts being undertaken outside of the Council and hope that progress can be achieved. We also note with regret the lack of progress so far in bringing peace to the region as well as the Council's inability to assist in that process. It is important for the Council to be kept fully apprised of the efforts being carried out and we are hopeful that the Council will be able, at some stage of the process, to pursue a constructive role in bringing peace to the Middle East.

15. During Jamaica's Presidency, we continued to promote further transparency in the work of the Security Council through scheduling of meetings of the Council in the format of open debates and briefings and allowing for participation of non-Council members, where appropriate. The President also provided briefings to Member States not members of the Council and held private meetings with affected and interested Member States as well as with NGOs on our own initiative, as appropriate, or as requested by them. While we consider these ongoing efforts to be useful, we urge the Council to find more ways to make transparency in the work of the Council a non-issue among Member States. We look forward to the Council following up on suggestions made during the wrap-up session to further enhance transparency in the work of the Council.

16. We are pleased that a new Presidential web site has been established to provide easy access to up-to-date information on the work of the Security Council and the decisions taken in the Council. We thank the Secretariat for its quick response to this request.

17. Our thanks to the members of the Council and the Secretariat for their cooperation and assistance in carrying out the work of the Council during one of its busiest months.